<u>IN THE CLAIMS</u>:

Please cancel Claims 1-23, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject

matter.

Please add Claims 24-36 as follows.

24.   An image processing apparatus comprising:

an input unit adapted to input image data;

a reception unit adapted to receive information from an external apparatus

as to a size of an object or a distance to the object;

a detection unit adapted to detect the object corresponding to the

information received by said reception unit, from the image data; and

a transmission unit adapted to transmit a detection result of the object to the

external apparatus when said detection unit detects the object.

25.   An apparatus according to claim 24, wherein said input unit

comprises an image pickup unit adapted to pick up the object image through an optical

system.

26.   An apparatus according to claim 25, wherein the image pickup unit

comprises a focus control unit adapted to control focusing of the optical system, and said

detection unit detects the object according to focus control information generated by the

focus control unit.

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27.   An apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the image pickup unit comprises a zoom control unit adapted to control zooming of the optical system, and said detection unit detects the object according to zoom control information generated by the zoom control unit.

28.   An apparatus according to claim 24, wherein said detection unit detects the object according to a difference value between pictures.

29.   An apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said detection unit binarizes the difference value by using a predetermined threshold and detects the object according to a binarization result.

30.   An apparatus according to claim 26, wherein said image processing apparatus is used in a monitoring camera system.

31.   An image processing method comprising the steps of:

inputting image data;

receiving information from an external apparatus as to a size of an object or a distance to the object;

detecting the object corresponding to the information received in the receiving step, from the image data; and

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transmitting a detection result of the object to the external apparatus when the object is detected.

32. A method according to claim 31, wherein said inputting step comprises picking up the object image through an optical system.

33. A method according to claim 32, wherein the step of picking up the object image comprises controlling a focus of the optical system, and said detecting step detects the object according to focus control information of the step of controlling the focus.

34. A method according to claim 33, wherein the step of picking up the object image comprises controlling zooming of the optical system, and said detecting step detects the object according to zoom control information of the step of controlling zooming of the optical system.

35. A method according to claim 31, wherein said detecting step detects the object according to a difference value between pictures.

36. A method according to claim 35, wherein said detecting step binarizes the difference value by using a predetermined threshold and detects the object according to a binarization result.--